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# THE ALL CANADIAN ENTERTAINMENT SERIES

BY EDITH HELEAN GROVES

# BRITANNIA

*(A Play)*

9/:00

# BRITANNIA

(*A Play*)

By

EDITH LELEAN GROVES

McCLELLAND, GOODCHILD & STEWART
PUBLISHERS :: :: :: TORONTO

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# BRITANNIA

## Characters in this Play.

Britannia.
A Page.
Ceylon.
India.
South Africa.
Australia.
New Zealand.
Newfoundland.
Canada.
Ontario.
Quebec.
Nova Scotia.
New Brunswick.
Prince Edward Island.
Manitoba.
Alberta.
Saskatchewan.
Yukon.
British Columbia.

## Costumes.

*Britannia.*—White dress, touching the floor, Union Jack draped over left shoulder. She wears a helmet and carries a trident and shield. (Obtain a good picture of Britannia and follow the dress as closely as possible.)

*A Page.*—White satin breeches and velvet coat. Slippers with large buckles.

*Ceylon and India.*—Red trousers full and baggy, full white waist, yellow scarf tied around the waist. Vary the costumes a little so that they will not be just alike.

*South Africa.*—White dress with wide sash coming over left shoulder and under right arm with the words South Africa printed on it.

*Australia.*—Skirt and middy with rough rider hat.

*New Zealand.*—Same as Australia. Vary the color of costume.

*Newfoundland.*—Suit of oilskins.

*Canada.*—White dress with decorations of maple leaves.

*Provinces.*—Sashes worn over the shoulders with the name of each printed on them. Or if you have in your midst an artist, have him paint some outsanding feature of each Province that the girl representing that Province may wear across the front of her blouse or her middy.

Ontario, Maple Leaf.

Quebec, Fleur de lis.

Nova Scotia, Scotch Thistle.

New Brunswick, Ship.

Prince Edward Island, Large Oak Tree and three small on an island.

Manitoba, Buffalo.

Alberta, Foothills of Rockies with Rockies in the distance.

Saskatchewan, Wheat Sheaves.

British Columbia, The Rising Sun.

Yukon, Gold Nuggets.

## BRITANNIA

### Descriptive.

If there is a curtain, have it rise upon a statue of Britannia. If not, Britannia slowly walks out upon the stage and mounts a pedestal. A high, rounded pedestal with a sheet wound around it is pretty.

The Page first enters, the other children remain outside the door until the Page calls them. Each makes a deep curtsey to Britannia before she begins to speak.

Each brings offerings. Have them prettily arranged in baskets or on trays. As the different products are mentioned the children lift them up and show them to Britannia.

Baskets and trays are laid at the feet of Britannia as each child finishes speaking.

Where it is not possible to have the offering itself, a suggestion of it will do. For instance, it would be rather difficult to bring fish, in that case the regulation fisherman's basket would be sufficient.

As the children finish speaking, they group themselves so as to form a semi-circle around Britannia. When all have finished the curtain drops. If there is no curtain, the children march off, Britannia comes last.

BRITANNIA.

*Page* (bowing low to Britannia).—I come to pay thee homage, O Britannia! And not I alone. There are many at the door asking admission. They come to tell you what it means to them to know that the British Navy is ever on the alert to guard their shores from treacherous foes. They are bringing offerings to Britannia and with grateful voices they are ready to sing as they never sang before, "Rule, Britannia, Britannia, Rule the Waves." May they come in?

*Britannia.*—They will be very welcome. Ask them to come in.

*Page.*—The first to come is Ceylon. She has braved the terrors of the sea and she brings you an offering. Ceylon, Ceylon!

(Enter Ceylon.)

*Ceylon.*—

From Ceylon's Isle I come,
    I bring my spices sweet,
And jewels rare for my lady fair,
    I lay at Britannia's feet.
I bring from that far Isle,
    Washed by the blue sea waves,
Tea, sugar and rice, and many a spice,
    And pearls from the ocean caves.

*Britannia.*—These gifts are rare and choice, Ceylon, I receive them with gratitude and thank you for them.

*Page.*—The next to come, O Britannia, is a near neighbor of Ceylon; India craves admission.

*Britannia.*—Tell India to enter.

*Page.*—India, India!
(Enter India.)

*India.*—

From India I have come,
And this is India's share,—
Silks, ivory white and jewels bright,
Soft skins from wild beasts' lair.
We're proud to offer thee,
These riches from our store,
Shawls, carvings fine, wealth from deep mine,
All this we bring, and more.

O'er oceans wide we've brought
These gifts in spite of foe,
Above the wave were perils grave,
And dangers lurked below.
But spite of treacherous foes,
We've confidence in thee,
Just hear us sing till the echoes ring,
"Britannia, rule the sea!"

*Britannia.*—Your gifts are very choice. But not alone for these does Britannia thank you. The part India has played in the Great War will never be forgotten. In spite of spies and alien plots, she has proved her loyalty to the Empire.

*Page.*—I hear South Africa at the door. May she come in?

*Britannia* (with surprise).—South Africa, has she come?

*Page.*—Yes, here she is.

*Britannia.*—Don't keep her waiting. Bid her welcome.

*Page.*—South Africa, Britannia calls you.
(Enter South Africa.)

*South Africa.*—

And I, o'er land and sea,
Have brought you treasures rare,
See, diamonds bright, a beauteous sight!
They'll deck some lady's hair.
From far-off diamond fields,
These sparkling gems I bring,
And lay in a heap at Britannia's feet,
They're fit for Queen or King.

But something better far,
Has Africa to give,—
Her manhood's might, on the side of right,
That Freedom's cause may live.
We've felt oppression's heel;
And now we say to thee,
"Come rule our land with firm, strong hand,
Just as you rule the sea."

*Britannia.*—Proud are we to welcome you, South Africa. There are some who thought you would not come, for strong forces were at work to prevent you, but here you are, loyal and true! We are glad to see you and we thank you for your gifts.

*Page.*—May Australia enter, O Britannia?

*Britannia.*—Australia—Australia—where have I heard that name before? Methinks 'twas in Gallipoli, or on the plains of France and Flanders. Australia—Let no one dare to keep Australia out.

*Page.*—Australia, Britannia is calling thee.
(Enter Australia.)

*Australia.*—
Far-off Australia too
Has treasures rich and choice,
Gifts o'er the sea she brings to thee,
To make thy heart rejoice.

What are Australia's gifts?
Tin, copper, iron and gold,
Coal from the mine, fruit from the vine,
And wealth of wool untold.

There's another offering,—
(You know of it perchance,)
Her manhood's best, from east and west,
Are fighting now in France.
These the richest treasures,
Australia has to give,
And willingly she gives them thee,
That Freedom's cause may live.

*Britannia.*—Australia! her men are staunch and stalwart and strong. Her name will ever be associated with deeds of valour and acts of bravery.

*Page.*—Here comes her neighbor, New Zealand, and New Zealand may enter, I know.

*Britannia.*—She may indeed.

*Page.*—New Zealand, New Zealand.
(Enter New Zealand.)

*New Zealand.*—
I've come from New Zealand,
An Island far away,
Rich golden grains from fertile plains,
I bring to thee to-day.

And see, here's finest wool,
You need it all I know,
For many a lad in khaki clad,
Is braving frost and snow

With New Zealand's dauntless,
Who left their native heath,
To fight for thee on land or sea,
The Union Jack beneath.
"Keep the old Flag flying!"
That's the song we love,
We'll sing it out, till cheer and shout
Have reached the heavens above.

*Britannia.*—It's a good song to sing, New Zealand. May it never be forgotten.

*Page.*—Here's a man in oilskins, he says he's from Newfoundland, may he enter?

*Britannia.*—He may enter, and he will be very welcome.

*Page.*—Newfoundland, Newfoundland!
(Enter Newfoundland.)

*Newfoundland.*—
Newfoundland's an Island,
Set in an Ocean Blue,
Like Jewel Fair, in a setting rare,
And this she sends to you,—

Coal and Lead and Gypsum,
Fish for each dear brave boy,
Who fights for Thee on land or sea,
Britannia's Pride and Joy.

*Britannia.*—'Tis a serious problem, the feeding of an army, Newfoundland has helped us wonderfully. In the name of her soldier and sailor boys, Britannia thanks you, Newfoundland. Who comes next?

*Page.*—Such a crowd of people at the door, Britannia! May they all come in?

*Britannia.*—Who are they?

*Page.*—'Tis Canada, but she is not alone.

*Britannia.*—Open wide the doors, let them all enter!

(Enter Canada, followed by Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Yukon.

*Canada.*—I could not come alone and so I brought with me all my family.

*Britannia.*—You are all welcome. Britannia thinks well of Canadians wherever she meets them. They have been loyal and true to the Empire always. As long as the world lasts, the bravery of Canada's sons will be remembered. History will ever glory in the story of their valour on the field of battle, fighting for God and the Right.

*Canada.*—

Ontario, speak first,—
All wait to hear you say,
What presents rare for lady fair
Have you brought here to-day?

*Ontario.*—

Silver, gold and nickel,
And other precious ores,
And peaches rare, a goodly share,
From out our boundless stores.
Products of the orchard,
Of farm and garden gay,
All these good things Ontario brings,
To offer thee to-day.

*Quebec.*—

I've brought pulp and paper,
The product of our trees,
Asbestos, See! we bring to thee,
And butter, milk and cheese,
This, a juicy melon,
Ripe, luscious, tasty, sweet,
Just try a slice, 'tis very nice,
You'll say, "'Tis quite a treat."

*Nova Scotia.*—

Large and rosy apples,
And tons and tons of coal,
Wheat, oats and hay we bring to-day,
And fish—the sea's great toll.
Butter from our dairies,
And poultry, milk and cheese,
Right loyally, we offer thee,
Accept them if you please.

*New Brunswick.*—

We have brought potatoes,
The crop is very fine,
And good moose meat for you to eat,
And coal from deepest mine.
Stone hewn from the quarry,
We have a large supply,
And flour to make some homemade cake,
And finest apple-pie.

*Prince Edward Island.*—

Oysters, fruit and poultry,
And lobsters from the sea,
For lady fair, black fox to wear,
See, how it looks on me,
'Tis fine and soft and silky,
I know you'll think it's choice,
Wear it for me, right royally,
You'll make my heart rejoice.

*Manitoba.*—

I've brought from the prairies
These sheaves of golden grain.
In noon sunlight they glittered bright
Upon a western plain.
See. (Shows it to audience.) "Manitoba hard."
None with it can compare,
Pray taste and try before you buy,
You'll say "'Tis wholesome fare."

*Alberta.*—There were many things I wanted to bring you, O Britannia—my horses roaming over the ranch, how could I bring them away, and my cattle basking in the Chinook winds? But this I have brought—wheat, and plenty of it, and a sample of our coal.

Accept this offering from Alberta.

*Saskatchewan.*—I could not think of a better offering to bring Britannia than this offering of wheat. Canada, from coast to coast is rich in wheat, but Saskatchewan has most of all. In harvest time our fields are gold and gleaming. We have plenty for ourselves and plenty for Britannia. Accept our offering, you cannot have too much.

*Britannia.*—You are right. All the grain that this fair land can produce is needed. Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, see to it that you do your part towards making Canada the great granary of the world.

*British Columbia.*—Am I the next to come? From the home of the Douglas Fir and the Sockeye Salmon, from the Province of the Fraser River and that wonderful Okanagan Valley, I bring rich gifts. Look at my fruit, rich, juicy, luscious! Where will you find finer fruit than British Columbia brings?

*Yukon.*—

Far off in the Yukon,
There, Frost is King, you know,
And stores untold of precious gold
Lie underneath the snow.
Many stalwart miners
Unearthed this gold for thee,
From deepest mines, watch how it shines,
Accept it now from me.

*Britannia.*—'Tis a beautiful gift! The gold is gleaming and precious and Britannia thanks you. (To Canada.) Canada, you have done well, your gifts are rich and choice and Britannia's heart is overflowing with gratitude to all who call themselves Canadians. 'Tis not alone for these material gifts that Bri-

tannia thanks you, Canada, but also for the part you have played in upholding the cause of right and justice in keeping the old Flag flying. When war broke out, how splendidly did you answer the call of the mot' :rland and with what haste did your stalwart sons rally to the colors. The magnificent account they have given of themselves on the war-swept plains of France and Flanders will never be forgotten. The name of many a British victory 'll have coupled with it the undying name of Canada. St. Julien, Vimy Ridge—Canada. Written are these three names on an E.npire's records, in letters of gold. Gold that catch the rays of the setting sun, imprison them there, and then send them flashing down through history.

NOTE.—Should the teacher desire to extend this little play so as to bring in other parts of the Empire, the following suggestions are given:

Costume in keeping with part represented, or a sash worn over shoulder with name printed on it, for example, "Bermuda," "Jamaica," etc., etc.

(After New Zealand.)

*Page.*—Here are a number of people at the door. They say they are from all parts of the world. What shall I do?

*Britannia.*—Let them in.

(Enter group of children representing other parts of the Empire.)

*Children.* (In Chorus.)—
From the Seven Seas, we've come
From all parts of the world
From coral strand, from far northland
Where'er your flag's unfurled.

*Britannia.*—You have come from all directions; many, many miles have you travelled. For your offerings and for your loyalty to Britannia, she thanks you.

NOTE.—A very pretty ending for this little Play will be found in FANCY FLAG DRILL, RULE BRITANNIA, Number 4 in the All-Canadian Entertainment Series.

Warwick Bro's & Rutter, Limited,
Printers and Bookbinders, Toronto, Canada.

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